

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 GAC-01

RSR-01 /179 W

----- 027309

R 241843 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5271

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 2895

E. O. 11652 NA

TAGS: EEC, ETRD, GATT

SUBJ: EC POSITION FOR GATT TEXTILE MEETING

1. SUMMARY. AN EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL ADVISES US
THE COMMUNITY' S TEXTILE WORKING GROUP
HAS AGREED ON A POSITION FOR THE FORTHCOMING GATT
TALKS. THE POSITION CONTAINS IMPORTANT
AMBIGUITIES SO THAT THE EC NEGOTIATORS MAY HAVE A
PROBLEM IN DECIDING HOW FAR THEY CAN GO UNDER IT.
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END SUMMARY.

2. THE COMMUNITY'S WORKING GROUP ON TEXTILES HAS ADOPTED A COMMUNITY MANDATE FOR THE UPCOMING GATT TEXTILE DISCUSSIONS. A COMMISSION OFFICIAL DESCRIBED THE POSITION AS ONE WHICH LEAVES MANY DETAILS UNCLEAR. HE TELS US IT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS GIVING THE COMMISSION FLEXIBLE GUIDELINES (AS DESCRIBED IN THE LONDON TIMES OF MAY 23), OR IT COULD MEAN THAT BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY HAS NOT AGREED TO SPECIFIC DETAILS THE COMMISSION IS IN A WEAK POSITION TO DECIDE ISSUES THAT ARE BOUND TO ARISE IN GENEVA.

3. THE COMMISSION OFFICIAL DESCRIBED THE OUTLINE OF THE COMMUNITY POSITION AS FOLLOWS: THE COMMUNITY WOULD FAVOR A MULTI- FIBER TEXTILE ARRANGEMENT. (THOUGH NOT SO STATED THIS WOULD PRESUMABLY BE A " FRAMEWORK" ARRANGEMENT.) THE ARRANGEMENT SHOULD LEAD TO LIBERALIZATION AND WIDE- RANGING INCREASES IN TEXTILE TRADE, ESPECIALLY FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. (THERE IS OF COURSE NO COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHAT THIS MIGHT MEAN IN QUANTITATIVE TERMS.) THIS OBJECTIVE IS CONSONANT WITH A " HARMONIZATION OF TEXTILE TARIFFS IN THE DIRECTION OF LOWER DUTIES." OUR SOURCE EXPLAINED THAT THIS MERELY ESTABLISHES A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROPOSED TEXTILE AGREEMENT AND MULTILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT SINCE THERE IS NOT INTENTION TO HAVE THE TEXTILE AGREEMENT CONCERN ITSELF WITH TARIFFS.

4. IN CASES WHERE IT TURNS OUT TO BE NECESSARY TO PROTECT DOMESTIC TEXTILE PRODUCERS, SAFEGUARDS WOULD BE PATTERNED AFTER THOSE IN THE LONG- TERM COTTON TEXTILE ARRANGEMENT. (THE OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT THOUGH NOT SO STATED THIS MEANS THE POSSIBILITY OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.) THE MULTI- FIBER AGREEMENT WOULD BE OPERATIVE " SO LONG AS DEEMED NECESSARY", A PHRASE WHICH THE OFFICIAL DESCRIBED AS A " FINE TOUCH". FINALLY THE MULTI- FIBER ARRANGEMENT SHOULD PROVIDE SOME MECHANISM FOR INTERNATIONAL SURVEILLANCE AND EXAMINATION " TO MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE".

GREENWALD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ECBRU02895
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730554/aaaajtzm.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980305
Subject: EC POSITION FOR
TAGS: ETRD, EEC, GATT
To: BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
EUR
LONDON
LUXEMBOURG

SECSTATE WASHDC
THE HAGUE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005